

Message Text

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TO USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 049967

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:ILO, IS, AORG

SUBJECT:ILO: 199TH SESSION OF THE GOVERNMENT BODY,
CONTINGENCY INSTRUCTION ON DIRECTOR-GENERAL'S FOLLOW-UP TO
59TH CONFERENCE RESOLUTION CONDEMNING ISRAEL

1. BACKGROUND

A. 59TH SESSION OF INTERNATIONAL LABOR CONFERENCE
(JUNE 1974) WITHOUT ANY PRIOR INVESTIGATION ADOPTED A
RESOLUTION CONDEMNING ISRAEL FOR VIOLATIONS OF TRADE UNION
RIGHTS OF ARABS IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. THE US OPPOSED
THAT RESOLUTION ON GROUNDS THAT IF ALLEGATIONS OF ISRAELI
MISCONDUCT WERE TO BE MADE THE COMPLAINANT SHOULD
USE ESTABLISHED ILO PROCEDURES. THIS HAS BEEN OUR CON-
SISTENT POSITION ON THIS RESOLUTION EVER SINCE. DISREGARD
OF DUE PROCESS CONTINUES TO BE MAJOR CONCERN OF CABINET
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LEVEL COMMITTEE AND LIES AT HEART OF SECRETARY KISSINGER'S

LETTER OF INTENT TO WITHDRAW.

B. THE ARAB MEMBERS OF THE ILO HAD PUSHED THE DG TO FOLLOW UP THIS RESOLUTION WITH A REPORT, WHICH IF IT CONCLUDED THAT ISRAEL HAD VIOLATED ARAB RIGHTS, WOULD BE FOLLOWED BY AN ILO PROGRAM OF ACTION TO END THE VIOLATIONS. THE DG AGREED TO SUBMIT A REPORT TO THIS SESSION OF THE GOVERNING BODY AND IT APPEARS AS GB 199/20/11, 199TH SESSION GENEVA, 2-5 MARCH, 1976.

C. IN REMARKS WITH WHICH THE DG CONCLUDES THREE MAJOR SECTIONS OF HIS REPORT, HE NOTES ONLY THAT MORE INFORMATION IS NEEDED, AND ENUMERATES CERTAIN POINTS THAT REQUIRE CLARIFICATION. HE AVOIDS JUDGMENTS AND HIS INTENTION SEEMS TO BE TO DEFER A FURTHER REPORT UNTIL AFTER THE JUNE CONFERENCE.

2. POSITION

A. USDEL SHOULD MAKE CLEAR IN THE MEETING AS WELL AS IN INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS PRIOR TO THE OPENING OF THE PLENARY ON MARCH 1, THAT WE CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN THAT ARAB ALLEGATIONS AGAINST ISRAEL ON THE SITUATION OF WORKERS OF THE TERRITORIES OCCUPIED BY ISRAEL SHOULD BE HANDLED USING PRESCRIBED ILO PROCEDURES. USDEL SHOULD NOTE THAT DG HAS BEEN PLACED IN AWKWARD SITUATION OF BEING REQUIRED TO TAKE ACTION THAT IS NOT IN ACCORDANCE WITH ILO PROCEDURES, AND THAT HE SHOULD BE RELIEVED OF THIS DIFFICULTY.

B. IF ABOVE COURSE DOES NOT APPEAR LIKELY TO ATTRACT MAJORITY SUPPORT, USDEL SHOULD OPPOSE FORMULATION OF ANY FURTHER PROPOSAL FOR ACTION BY GB OR DG, AND IN EVENT OF A VOTE SHOULD VOTE NO, CITING CONTINUED DISREGARD OF DUE PROCESS.

C. USDEL SHOULD MAINTAIN CONTINUING CONSULTATION WITH US EMPLOYERS AND WORKERS AND ISRAELI REPS IN GENEVA ON QUESTION OF HOW BEST TO DEAL WITH THIS PROBLEM.

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